



Ashland

WISCONSIN

CITY OF ASHLAND

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Ashland, WI 54806
Phone: 715.682.7041

August 11th, 2009

Patti Krause
EPA Community Involvement Coordinator
77 W. Jackson Blvd. (S1-7J)
Chicago, IL 60604
Email: Krause.patricia@epa.gov

Dear Patti,

The City of Ashland is pleased to provide comments on the Proposed Plan for the *Ashland / Northern States Power Lakefront Superfund Site*. We would also like to thank the EPA for the extensive outreach that has occurred by the EPA, the WDNR, and Northern States Power Company of Wisconsin, to educate the region about the Superfund cleanup process and the Proposed Plan.

Regarding the Proposed Plan, the Ashland City Council hereby has the following comments.

A) It is important that the clean-up be done once and done right. It is important that the cleanup be protective of human health and the environment. Additionally it is very important that the timing of the clean-up commence as soon as possible, as the current site is an impediment to the economic development of Ashland, as well as other environmental impacts that it may cause within Lake Superior's Chequamegon Bay.

I) Groundwater – We agree with the remedy selected.

II) Soils – We agree with the remedy selected.

III) Sediments – The proposed clean-up standard of 9.5 ppm is acceptable to the City.

We encourage the EPA to allow for a test demonstration of wet dredging technology during the design phase. If it can be shown to be effective by meeting predetermined performance criteria, the wet dredge solution should be allowed to be used for entire site. The City of Ashland understands the NSPW's request to test one-pass dredging and are agreeable with this process, provided that it meets the performance standards.

The total cost of the cleanup is a concern to the City, as rate payers will likely share in the cost of the clean-up. If proven, wet dredging may be a more cost effective method.

With the dry dredge remedy, concerns have been raised about basal heave. We would like the EPA to review and consider these concerns during the selection of the method of cleanup.

B) It is important that the clean-up be protective of the neighborhood.

I) Appropriate measures need to be taken to limit the amount of odors released from clean-up. To assure this, a comprehensive air monitoring and management plan & system needs to be implemented. Additionally, a 24-hour contact needs to be identified with a mechanism for immediate action / remedy. Good baseline data will need to be taken to help identify what types of conditions need to be mitigated.

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The clean-up also needs provide a mechanism to relocate, if needed, residents who are unable to tolerate the degradation of air quality.

- C) During the design phase, the cleanup shall be designed to comply with City ordinances.
 - I) Compliance will be needed with the City Noise Ordinance and hours of operation/ construction. A contact also needs to be identified along with a mechanism to respond to complaints.
 - II) Clean-up will need to be designed to protect City infrastructure, and in the event damage occurs the damaged item will need to be repaired through the Superfund project. For example, damage to City streets (or underlying utilities) which are used for haul routes need to be paid for through the Superfund project.
 - III) Other public protections will be needed, as required by City ordinances including dust control, construction lighting which is night sky and neighborhood protective, and work site fencing.
 - IV) Mechanisms to share information about the clean-up process, including weekly updates on construction activities are needed to keep the public informed. Examples of such mechanisms include: a website, newspaper notifications, an on-site kiosk, and mailings to neighbors.
- D) It is important that the clean-up advance the goals and objectives of the City's Waterfront Development Plan.
- E) Additionally, any beneficial reuse of materials would be supportive of the City of Ashland's commitment as an Eco-Municipality.

Since the containments have been found at the *Ashland / Northern States Power Lakefront Superfund Site*, the Ashland community has been waiting 20-years for the cleanup to occur. It is imperative that the Superfund cleanup is done with expediency, but done correctly the first time so that a repeat of the cleanup does not need to occur.

Sincerely,



Edward Monroe
Mayor



Rolland Peterson
City Council President